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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

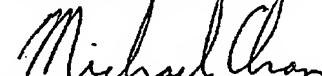Claims 1-3, 10, and 11 are amended. Claims 1-3, 10, and 11 are pending.

Applicant would like to point out that the rejection of claims 1-3, 10, and 11 is improper for at least the following reasons.

First, Applicant would like to point out that Hayosh discloses a method and apparatus in which first quality assurance data is contained in an image tag file. In contrast, in the present application, apriori reference image quality data is stored on the sheet material of the check. This apriori reference image quality data is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of at least one symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the sheet material.

Second, in Hayosh, the image tag and the image data file are contained in the same image file. In contrast, in the present application, the apriori reference image quality data is stored on the sheet material of the check, and the image data file is stored separately from the apriori reference image quality data which is stored on the sheet material of the check.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Chan
Reg. No. 33,663
Attorney for Applicant

NCR Corporation, Law Department, WHQ-3E
1700 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45479-0001
Tel. 937-445-4956/Fax 937-445-6794

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